



Washington, DC—Today, Congressman Olver announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded \$145,000 for the continued renovation and expansion of the Buckland Public Library. The grant is part of \$15 million designated in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act for the USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities Program. Buckland Public Library is one of only two projects selected in Massachusetts and the only one to receive a grant.

"Today's public libraries serve a very different purpose than those built in the late 1800's, when the Buckland Library was dedicated," said Congressman Olver. "While beautiful, the 900 square foot library simply cannot support a community of 2,000 people. This grant will make it possible for the Buckland Public Library to expand the building, thereby allowing it to broaden its services and increase the community's access to information."

"We're very pleased to be able to assist in Buckland's Library expansion project," said USDA Rural Development State Director Jay Healy. "The Buckland Public Library Trustees worked diligently to secure this funding and they share USDA Rural Development's commitment to ensuring that future generations have continued and expanded access to the educational, social, and economic resources rural libraries provide."

"The Buckland Public Library, located in rural western Massachusetts, has worked many years toward our goal of becoming universally accessible, with improvements in space and technology to meet the needs of our community. The existing library is only 900 square feet. As you can imagine, the expansion and renovation has been widely supported by everyone," said Karen Harmon, Building Committee Chair.

"Buckland has a population of less than 2,000 people and as a "hill town" has limited access to high speed internet or cable television. For many, the library is a community gathering place, a free resource for information and for recreational reading and movies. More importantly, some folks depend on the library for email and internet searches. The ARRA grant came just in the

nick of time and completes the resources desperately needed to complete funding for our renovation project. On behalf of the Buckland Public Library Trustees, we sincerely thank the US Department of Agriculture with special thanks to the Hadley, Massachusetts office for all their help and guidance through the grant process," added Harmon.

"Thank you to Congressman Olver for his continued community support. The expansion of the Buckland Public Library has been a vision held by many individuals, with the release of the USDA grant this vision becomes closer to reality. Congressman Olver's dedication to small communities such as Buckland shows he values the future of public libraries and ensuring what they provide will remain in the forefront," said Stefan G Racz, Town of Buckland Select Board Chair.

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